

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 09850 130502Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /095 W

-----030871 130507Z /20

R 121250Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

T RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4647

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

CINCPACT

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 9850

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: GOI VIEWS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

1. INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE EXPLAINED HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN IN REPLY TO SOME PERSISTENT QUESTIONING IN PARLIAMENT JULY 11. ASKED WHETHER INDIA HAD BEEN CONSULTED BY THE US AND THE USSR ON THEIR NEGOTIATIONS, HE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS BEING DONE ON AN INFORMAL BASIS. HE SAID THAT THE GOI HAS IMPRESSED ON THEM THE "DESIRABILITY OF EXPEDITING THE NEGOTIATIONS." RESPONDING TO A MEMBER'S ACCUSATION THAT THE GOI APPEARED TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 09850 130502Z

LEAVING THE ISSUE ENTIRELY TO THE SUPER POWERS, THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE LITTORAL COUNTRIES HAVE MADE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN THROUGH THE UN AND THE NON-ALIGNED FORUM. "BUT WE HAVE TO FACE THE FACTS AS THEY ARE. IT IS FOR THE SUPER POWERS TO COME TO SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT ON THIS QUESTION." HE CREDITED PRESSURE FROM THE NON-ALIGNED AS HAVING LED TO THE US-USSR NEGOTIATIONS. REPLYING TO THE SAME MEMBER, VAJPAYEE

SAID THAT HE HAD NO INFORMATION CONCERNING ALLEGED EFFORTS BY THE US TO ACQUIRE A BASE IN THE BAY OF BENGAL, ON SAINT MARTIN ISLAND, FROM BANGLADESH. HE TOLD ANOTHER MEMBER THAT HE WAS AWARE OF REPORTS THAT THE US WAS NEGOTIATING FOR USING AIR BASE FACILITIES BUILT BY THE BRITISH AT MASIRAH IN OMAN. HE CRYPTICALLY SAID THERE COULD NOT BE "ANY DOUBT IN THE WORLD ABOUT INDIA'S POSITION."

2. ASKED BY A CPM MEMBER WHAT "PRESSURE" THE GOI HAS PUT ON THE US TO INCLUDE CHINA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN DISCUSSIONS, VAJPAYEE SAID THAT INDIA WOULD BE "HAPPY IF ALL BIG POWERS AND MAJOR MARITIME POWERS, INCLUDING CHINA, JOINED HANDS IN MAKING THE INDIAN OCEAN A ZONE OF PEACE.

3. CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF CALLING A NEW CONFERENCE OF LITTORAL COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE MINISTER

SAID THAT IT WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE UNLESS "ALL THE MAJOR MARITIME USERS" AGREED. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE UN WAS WORKING IN THIS DIRECTION, AND HE HOPED THAT A CONFERENCE WOULD TAKE PLACE.

4. DISCUSSING THE SCOPE OF THE SOVIET-AMERICAN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE MINISTER SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD NEVER PROMISED TO DISMANTLE DIEGO GARCIA. "ALL THAT HE HAS PROMISED IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE DEMILITARIZATION AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 09850 130502Z

THAT THERE SHOULD BE LIMITATION ON THE MILITARY PRESENCE OF BIG POWERS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN." THE MINISTER NOTED THAT IN A MARCH 9 STATEMENT PRESIDENT CARTER INDICATED THAT HE FAVORED THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING THE JUNE TALKS, TASS REPORTED THAT THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSED "LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN." VAJPAYEE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT APPEARED THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN "DOWNGRADED." FOR ITS PART THE MINISTER DECLARED THAT INDIA WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH ANYTHING LESS THAN THE INDIAN OCEAN'S BEING MADE A ZONE OF PEACE.

5. THE DELHI PRESS JULY 12 CARRIED DETAILED REPORTS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REPLIES TO THE PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONING. MOST PAPERS CHARACTERIZED HIS STATEMENTS AS REAFFIRMING THE INDIAN COMMITMENT TO THE OBJECTIVE OF A ZONE OF PEACE.

6. COMMENT: TWO POINTS STAND OUT IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S EXPOSITION OF THE GOI'S POLICY TOWARDS THE INDIAN OCEAN. FIRST, HE RECOGNIZED THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE AREA DEPENDED ON THE US AND USSR. ALL THAT THE LITTORAL COUNTRIES COULD DO WAS TO BRING PRESSURE ON THEM. SUCH REALISM WHILE OBVIOUS IS NOT ALWAYS VOICED.

SECOND, HE SAID THAT CHINA HAD A ROLE IN MAKING THE INDIAN OCEAN A ZONE OF PEACE. TOO MUCH SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE READ INTO THIS STATEMENT, AS IT WAS IN REPLY TO A QUESTION. LITTLE WOULD HAVE BEEN GAINED IF THE MINISTER HAD REPLIED THAT CHINA HAD NO INTEREST OR ROLE IN THE ISSUE.
GOHEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OCEANS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS, DEMOBILIZATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE09850
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770248-0930
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770767/aaaacfzk.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6d07e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1889484
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI VIEWS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN
TAGS: PFOR, MMOL, IN, XO, UR, US, (VAJPAYEE, ATAL BIHARI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d07e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009